

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /095 W
-----069311 120623Z /15

R 110740Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7765
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2360

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IV, FR
SUBJECT: IVORIAN VIEWS ON FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

1. EMBASSY OFFICER AND VISITING PARIS POLITICAL OFFICER NICHOLAS MURPHY MET WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF U.S./EUROPEAN, AFRICAN AND UN AFFAIRS FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON. REACTION OF IVORIAN OFFICIALS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

2. IN RESPONSE TO HOW A LEFTIST VICTORY IN FRANCE COULD AFFECT FRENCH POLICY IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, IVORIAN OFFICIALS STATED BELIEF CONTINUITY WOULD PREVAIL IN FRENCH POLICY. THERE ARE TOO MANY STRONG TIES TO PERMIT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. MOREOVER, SOCIALISTS
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ONCE IN POWER HAVE HISTORICALLY ADOPTED CONSERVATIVE FOREIGN POLICIES. NOTING THAT FRENCH SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF GISCARD'S AFRICAN POLICY, PARIS POL OFFICER ASKED WHETHER A LEFTIST VICTORY MIGHT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT RELATIONS IN THE SECURITY AREA. IVORIAN OFFICIALS REPLIED IT WOULD NOT AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE SECURITY OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICA WAS A WESTERN AS

WELL AS FRENCH CONCERN. THEREFORE, IN THE EVENT OF A
LEFTIST VICTORY, OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WOULD HAVE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF EITHER PERSUADING NEW FRENCH GOVERN-
MENT OF THE VIRTUES OF CONTINUITY OR OF FILLING SECURITY
VACUUM. ADDITIONALLY, THE HOSPITALITY OF GOIC FOR THE
LARGE FRENCH PRESENCE IN IVORY COAST WOULD APPEAR TO
IMPOSE A CERTAIN OBLIGATION ON THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABIDJA02360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780110-0708
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780379/aaaacowp.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d8ca18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3362094
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORIAN VIEWS ON FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, IV, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8ca18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014